

help lower income working families who are ready to assume the responsibilities of homeownership but held back by mortgage costs that are just out of reach, to help families who have historically been excluded from homeownership.

Today, all across the country, I say to millions of young working couples who are just starting out: By the time your children are ready to start the first grade, we want you to be able to own your own home. All of our country will reap enormous benefits if we achieve this goal. Homeownership encourages savings and investment. When a family buys a home the ripple effect is enormous. It means new homeowner consumers. They need more durable goods, like washers and dryers, refrigerators and water heaters. And if more families could buy new homes or older homes, more hammers will be pounding, more saws will be buzzing. Homebuilders and home fixers will be put to work.

When we boost the number of homeowners in our country, we strengthen our economy, create jobs, build up the middle class, and build better citizens.

I thank Millard Fuller especially for the work that Habitat for Humanity has done in building better citizens. I remember the day we dedicated the very first Habitat house built in my home State that went to a woman who went to church with me and worked for the State government and still her income was so low she was eligible to be considered there. And I was so proud of her because she and her children, for the first time, felt that all these incredible years of sacrifice and labor she had endured were about to be rewarded. And it made her a better citizen, and it made everybody that put a hammer to a nail a better citizen, and it made all of who saw it unfold better citizens.

H.L. Mencken once wrote that, "a home is not a mere transient shelter, its essence lies in its permanence, and its quality of representing in all its details the personalities of the people who live in it."

What we are doing today will allow more homes to be blessed by more families. I hope it will start all these young people on a path that will take them to great joys in their personal lives, and perhaps to other homes, but something they will always know that their

country wanted them to have because they were entitled to it as a part of the American dream.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jean Mikitz, a new homeowner who introduced the President, and Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International.

Memorandum on Assistance to the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

June 5, 1995

Presidential Determination No. 95-25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assistance Program for New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

Pursuant to section 577 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1994 (Titles I-V of Public Law 103-87), I hereby certify that Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States continue to make substantial progress toward the withdrawal of their armed forces from Latvia and Estonia.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this certification and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:28 p.m., June 9, 1995]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 13.

Interview With Larry King

June 5, 1995

Mr. King. Good evening. We have checked all of our history books, and as best we can figure out, this is the first time ever a sitting President and Vice President have ever been on a program, radio or television, together while in office.